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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0001] on page 1 as follows:

Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) JPEG compression is known as a technique for compressing and coding image data. According to JPEG compression, redundancy is reduced utilizing a high level of correlation between items of image data. The volume of data whose redundancy has been reduced (compression rate) can be changed by changing a compression parameter which is referred to as a "Q-value" (Q factor). The Q-value is an image quality factor. An image has lower quality and a higher compression rate, the smaller the Q-value. However, a constant Q-value does not necessarily result in a constant compression rate, and the relationship between the Q-value and the compression rate depends on the characteristics (resolution, complexity, and so on) of images to be compressed.

Please amend paragraph [0006] on page 3 as follows:

When the data volume of the generated image data does not upwardly exceed the predetermined range of limitation, it is judged at step 506 whether the data volume of the generated image data downwardly exceeds the predetermined range ~~range~~ of limitation and, if yes, the Q-value used for the compression process is increased (step 507). Then, the processes at step 502 and later are repeated. When it is judged at step 506 that the range of limitation is not downwardly exceeded, the process is terminated because it means that the data volume of the generated image data is within the range of limitation.

Please amend paragraph [0019] on page 9 as follows:

The compression process section 12 has a compression process performing unit 121 and a compression parameter acquisition unit 123. The compression process performing unit 121 executes calculations for a known JPEG compression process (a discrete cosine transform process, a quantization process, a Huffman coding ~~encoding~~

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process, or the like) on the basis of a selected Q-value according to a predetermined program. The compression parameter acquisition unit 123 acquires a Q-value. The compression parameter acquisition unit 123 refers to data in the compression characteristics storing section 13 depending on the target data volume and the complexity of the image to be compressed to acquire the Q-value. Details of the selection of the Q-value will be described later.